

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 160600
ORIGIN IO-14

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P R 232052Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, FAO

SUBJECT:FAO BUDGET 1980/1981

REF: ROME 10262

1. WE ARE REPEATING REFTEL TO YOU FOR INFORMATION.
POSITION TAKEN BY UK REP PARA 3 IS QUITE OUT OF STEP WITH
LINE EXPRESSED BY UK REP (MICHAEL WEIR) AT MAY GENEVA
GROUP CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING. EMBASSY SHOULD SEE
FOREIGN OFFICE PROMPTLY TO INDICATE U.S. CONCERN OVER
POSITION BEING TAKEN BY UK REP TO FAO. FYI. IT IS QUITE
LIKELY ROME POSITION REFLECTS ODM POSITION VS CONSULTATIVE
GROUP POSITION EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN OFFICE. END FYI.
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2. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- FAO'S BUDGET HAS SOARED 100 PERCENT SINCE 1973/1974
LEVEL OF \$106 MILLION. CONTINUED GROWTH AT THIS RATE
WHETHER FUELED BY REAL PROGRAM INCREASES OR EVEN COST
INCREASES SERIOUSLY RISKS MAJOR DONORS ABILITY TO SUPPORT

ORGANIZATION.

-- DECISION BY SIX GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES LAST FALL TO
ABSTAIN ON FAO'S 1978/1979 BUDGET REFLECTS THIS SERIOUS
CONCERN.

-- DESPITE STATEMENTS BY UK DELEGATION TO GENEVA GROUP
CONSULTATIVE MEETING GENEVA WHICH LED US TO BELIEVE UK AL-
SO CONCERNED ABOUT PRECIPITOUS UN AGENCY BUDGET GROWTH,
WE UNDERSTAND UK REP TO FAO HAS STATED HMG'S WILLINGNESS
TO SUPPORT UP TO 6 PERCENT REAL GROWTH PER ANNUM RPT
PER ANNUM.

-- U.S. WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CONCEIVABLE
NOW BE ABLE TO SUPPORT SUCH GROWTH EVEN ON A PER BIENNIIUM
BASIS.

-- EVEN IF UK PREPARED TO DRAMATICALLY INCREASE
ASSISTANCE GOING THROUGH UN SYSTEM WE WONDER WHETHER IT
WOULD NOT BE MORE USEFUL TO LAY GREATER STRESS ON UNDP
FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, RATHER THAN SPREAD
LIQUIDITY THROUGHOUT SYSTEM THUS LEADING TO AN EROSION
OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY-PLAN CONCEPT EMBODIED IN THE 1970
UNDP CONSENSUS AND A CONTINUED PROLIFERATION OF SUCH
ASSESSED BUDGET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS FAO'S
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM.
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3. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED GENEVA GROUP ROME MEETS NEXT
JUNE 27. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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